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VOL. III NO. 47

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1948.

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British Honduras Dispute

Cruiser Despatched

London, Feb. 26.—Britain, fearing that Guatemala "extremists" might try to land in British Honduras, is sending the 9,100-ton cruiser HMS Sheffield to stand by in Belize, the colony's capital, a Foreign Office spokesman here today.

A note is being prepared protesting against a recent press campaign in Guatemala linking the Republic's claims to Honduras territory with the Antarctic dispute with Argentina and Chile.

The Foreign Office spokesman said Britain did not suspect the Guatemalan Government itself of preparing an expedition against British territory, but feared that the atmosphere engendered by the press campaign would foster "irresponsible and extremist elements."

The cruiser Sheffield was tonight on its way to Belize from Cartagena, Colombia.

The dispute dates back to 1859, when an Anglo-Guatemalan Convention was concluded and ratified which confirmed the existing frontier between Guatemala and Honduras.

GUATEMALA'S CLAIM

Under a second convention four years later, Britain undertook to provide £50,000 towards joint communications by rail or road. But this convention was never ratified nor came into force and the Guatemalan Government subsequently claimed that the whole treaty of 1859 was invalid and that Guatemala had a valid claim to the whole of British Honduras.

Britain, disputing the claim, said the 1859 Convention had merely confirmed a frontier which had existed since Guatemala achieved her independence in 1821.

As in the case of the Antarctic dispute, Britain's solution is to bring the matter before the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

This was proposed by Britain in 1946.

The Guatemalan Government is prepared to accept the jurisdiction of the International Court only if the matter is judged "ex aequo et bono" so that considerations of equity as well as of law can be played.

The British Government was unwilling to accept and the dispute has remained at an indecisive stage.

SITTING ON FENCE

The United States is "fence sitting" on Britain's dispute with Guatemala over British Honduras, just as she is on the question of the Falkland Dependencies, but diplomatic authorities here are convinced that the issues will be raised at the Inter-American Conference at Bogota, starting on March 30.

These diplomats believed that Guatemala has reopened the old sore mainly because the Bogota meeting is imminent.—Reuter.

Scores For Wallace



Mr. Leo Isaacson (left), successful Wallace-backed American labour party candidate in a special election in the 24th congressional district of New York, is seen here receiving congratulations in party headquarters by Representative Vito Marcantonio after his smashing victory. — AP Wirephoto.

LITTLE ASSEMBLY OKAYS KOREA ELECTIONS

Lake Success, Feb. 26.—The Little Assembly recommended today that the United Nations proceed with nationwide elections in Korea in defiance of a Soviet boycott. The vote was 31 to 2.

Australia and Canada opposed the proposal, submitted by the United States. Eleven countries abstained. The vote was taken by show of hands and no official record of the balloting by countries was made.

Russia was absent as usual, along with five satellites, under her continued boycott of the activities of the Little Assembly.

It was the first major vote taken in the Little Assembly, created in the suggestion of Secretary of State George Marshall.

The proposal adopted said it was incumbent upon a UN Commission on Korea to carry out the elections leading to establishing of a Korean government. The Commission had asked for instructions in view of Russia's refusal to have anything to do with the UN Commission or to allow its members into the Northern zone of Korea.

Korea was divided at the 38th parallel for occupation purposes after the defeat of Japan. Russia

controls the North, which has one-third the total Korean population, and the US occupies the south.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Under the accepted American plan the Commission will start holding elections in the South and work Northward. If Russia continues to boycott the Commission and refuses permission for entry into the Northern zone, balloting will have to be halted at the 38th parallel. A National Assembly then will be set up with representatives elected from the Southern zone occupying two-thirds of the seats and the other one-third of the seats, which would go to the Northern zone, will be open.

Canada and Australia opposed the American plan on the ground that the Little Assembly had no legal authority to make such a recommendation.

Lester B. Pearson, Canadian delegate, indicated his country might withdraw from the Korean Commission should that body attempt to carry out the recommendation.

Australia also is a member of the Commission. The others on the nine nation body are China, El Salvador, India, France, the Philippines, Syria and the Soviet Union. However, the Ukraine never has taken a seat, in keeping with the Soviet opposition.

An unofficial list of the countries abstaining included: Afghanistan, Egypt, Colombia, Denmark, Iraq, Norway, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria and Venezuela.—Associated Press.

Britain's Coal Exports

London, Feb. 26.—Britain intends to export up to 16 million tons of coal this year, thanks to an unexpectedly high production and low consumption at home, the Minister of Fuel, Mr. Hugh Gaiskill, told the House of Commons today.

The coal production in Britain has been maintained at an average of 14,100,000 tons weekly since the Saturday overtime working was introduced last November.

Stocks are about double those of last winter when all exports were temporarily halted during the fuel crisis emergency.

Mr. Gaiskill explained later that by allocating 15 million to 16 million tons of coal this year for exports and bunkers, Britain was contributing between £30,000,000 and £40,000,000 more to the credit side of her balance of payments.—Reuter.

Jews And Arabs In Eight-Hour Battle

HOSPITAL TARGET

Jerusalem, Feb. 26.—Haganah quarters today said some 20 Arabs had been killed and an unknown number wounded in an eight-hour Arab bid, starting at midnight last night, to isolate the Jewish community on top of Mount Scopus.

The target of the Arab attack was the million-dollar Hadassah Hospital and the entire Hebrew University colony on the Mount, which overlooks the old city on the West and the Dead Sea on the East.

A Government communique said two Arabs were killed and three critically injured.

Haganah quarters said Jewish forces destroyed three houses in a counter-attack on Wadi Joz on the slopes of Scopus.

Haganah said the Arabs prepared their attack by severing telephone communications between the Mount Scopus settlement and Jerusalem and opening a barrage on the hospital at midnight.

By 8 a.m. today firing had ceased. Meanwhile, 51 victims of the Ben Yehudi Street bombing on Sunday were buried secretly in the new North Jerusalem cemetery.

The Jewish Agency announced that it was opening a two-day "public inquiry" into the bombing and promised a verdict tomorrow.

Preparations were under way in Jerusalem to transfer a large group of British policemen and civilians to England.—United Press.

At the same time, Mr. George Marshall, the Secretary of State, gave a secret report on the Palestine situation and the American policy in relation to the Security Council to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Senators were sworn to secrecy.

It was understood that Mr. Marshall reiterated the statement on United States policy made by Senator Warren Austin this week and defended it on legal and moral grounds.

He is understood to have repeated that the United States has only 30,000 troops actually available now for any immediate movement.

Reports were current here today of a dispute between the State and Army Departments on the possibility of supplying troops.—Reuter.

Chaplin Sued By Bank Worker

Paris, Feb. 26.—M. Henri Verdoux, the Paris citizen who is bringing an action against the distributors of Charles Chaplin's wife-murderer film "Monsieur Verdoux" opened his case today by saying that he had six points in common with his namesake of the film.

They were: His surname, his Christian name, his employment in a bank, the fact that he was married, that he was a father of a boy of 10, and that he was a specialist in financial questions.

"I have never known so many marked coincidences," his lawyers said.

M. Verdoux is claiming 5,000,000 francs from the United Artists Distributors and Cinemas.

He asserted that his reputation, peace and well-being had suffered. He had been chased by journalists, harassed by photographers and had completely lost his former calm.

Customers at the bank where he was employed called him "Blue-beard."

During an adjournment in the courtroom, press photographers fired off magnesium flares.

Judgment was postponed until March 16.—Reuter.

Philippines Air Disaster

Manila, Feb. 26.—Three of six persons on board a Philippine Air Force C-47 plane were killed when it crashed after taking off at the Lapa airbase, southern Luzon, on Tuesday morning.

Two others were seriously injured while the sixth escaped with minor bruises about his body.

The co-pilot, Captain Benjamin E. Escamio, 32, was among those killed, while the pilot, Lieutenant Valdes, was one of the two hurt.

The other victims were enlisted men.—Reuter.

China Asks For A Stabilisation Fund

Washington, Feb. 26.—China has asked the United States for a currency stabilisation loan on top of the \$570 million she is due to get for machinery and essential imports, Mr. George Marshall, the Secretary of State, said today.

In evidence given to Congress last week, Mr. Marshall said it would be a waste of effort for the United States to attempt to stabilise China's economy at the present time.—Reuter.

Eire's New Premier



Mr. John A. Costello, 56-year-old Dublin attorney, has been elected Prime Minister of Eire in succession to Mr. Eamon De Valera. He is the leader of the Fine Gael (United Irish) party.—AP Wirephoto.

Holiday Flight For HK Children

Braathens, the Norwegian airline, has arranged a special "summer holiday" flight for 35 to 40 British school children who wish to join their parents in Hongkong for the summer.

Leaving London on or about August 1, the plane will make the trip in as short a time as possible and should reach Hongkong approximately four days after departure. The Skyliner, DC-4 will put down at the airline's usual stops of Amsterdam, Bonn, Lydd, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangkok, making overnight stops at Lydd, Bombay and Calcutta. The return trip will leave Hongkong about September 15.

Everything is being done to make the flight comfortable and pleasant for the children. Wallem and Co., Hongkong agents for Braathens, said yesterday. Two or three specially picked stewardesses will be aboard and the meals will be planned with an eye to the children's needs and tastes.

Parents will be consulted as to the date most suitable for their children's departure and the exact date will be set in accordance with the convenience of the majority. It is believed, however, that this date will not be later than August 1, although it may be a few days earlier.

Specially reduced roundtrip fares have been arranged for the trip, which will carry school children and students up to 24 years of age.

Wallem and Co. said yesterday that although most of the seats had already been booked, there were still a few vacancies.

Imam Of Yemen Succession Threatens Civil War

Cairo, Feb. 26.—Emir Seif El Islam Ahmed, the eldest son of the late Imam Yahya Hamid Du Din, of the Yemen, who yesterday proclaimed himself Imam, has appealed to King Ibn Saud to intervene in the dispute over the succession, "before it is too late, to avoid plunging the country into a civil war," reports from Aden published in the Egyptian press said today.

The succession is disputed by Imam Abdullah El Wazir, who made himself ruler on February 16.

Abdullah El Wazir is reported to have threatened that unless Emir Ahmed, whose father, three brothers and the Yemen Premier were said to have been assassinated earlier this month, and his followers surrendered from their mountain refuge in the south and declared their allegiance to him, they would be "annihilated."

The Arab League in Cairo decided to appeal to both Emir Ahmed and Abdullah El Wazir to avoid a clash and stop the mobilisation of their forces until the League's mission, headed by Abdul Rahman Azam Pasha, Secretary General of the League, arrived in the Yemen to try to arrange an amicable settlement.

Azzam Pasha is now expected to sail from Port Said on board the Egyptian coastguard cruiser Farouk El Awal on Saturday—and not tomorrow as "earlier reported"—for Hodeida, the principal Yemenite Red Sea port.

An entirely new account of the assassination of the former Imam of Yemen, asserting that he was shot after burying Royal treasure in the desert sands, was published in the Arabic newspaper, Al Misi, here today.

Earlier reports had said that the Imam and his three sons had been strangled. The 85-year-old Yahya Hamid-Du-Din drove out to the desert and buried treasure, thought to be £10,000,000 worth of gold, in empty paraffin tins.

He then ordered all the slaves who had taken part in the expedition to be killed so that the hiding place should remain secret.

On his way back he was attacked, and, according to Al Misi, there were 100 bullet holes in his car and 50 in his body. The body of the Imam's Prime Minister was found in a valley "badly mutilated," Al Misi added.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Unwelcome Procrastination

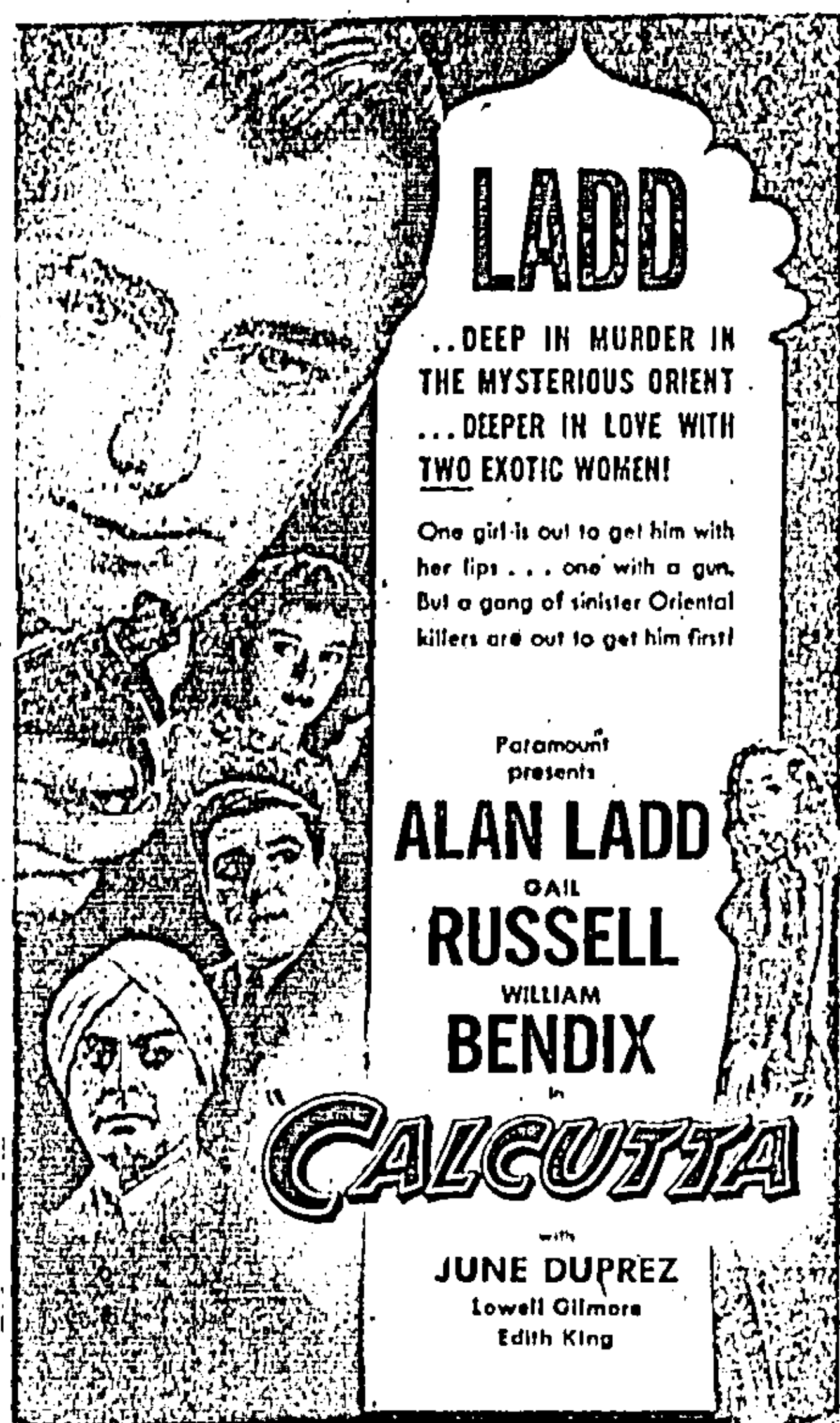
THE apparently authoritative forecast that the Japanese peace conference will be delayed until next year gives no cause for feelings of satisfaction. Procrastination in this matter appears to reside with the United States whose officials quite frankly declare that Mr. George Marshall and his colleagues have other things to worry about—the inference being that a peace settlement in the Orient is relatively unimportant. Continued delay can only help to complicate further an already complicated problem and engender the suspicions of China, Australia and the Philippines that the United States has ulterior motives behind her postponement of a peace conference. Already feelings have been created that the MacArthur declaration, while worthy of being credited with energetic rehabilitation and reform measures, serves principally American interests to the disadvantage of the rest of the Allies. The MacArthur administration has assumed a sacrosanct and exclusiveness which, while becoming enough in the first months of the occupation, is inclined now to be tedious. The future of Japan cannot indefinitely be left in the hands of one man nor would one imagine that he wishes for such a burden longer than is possibly necessary. Mr. Marshall is credited with desiring to postpone the peace conference in the hope that the

Soviet Union will abandon her attitude on the question of the veto. Experience to date makes that a forlorn hope, more particularly when everything now tends to show a hardening of the negative Russian attitude to any moves or proposals emanating from the United States and Britain—the German and Korean questions are examples. It can be conceded that the European problem is serious and of prime importance, but it is difficult to find any justifiable basis for the contention that because of Europe, it is impossible to consider the Japanese peace settlement. Russia, of course, is entitled to a voice in the peace conference, but only if she is prepared to meet majorly wishes with respect to procedure. Her interests in the future peace and prosperity of the Pacific are important, but not more so than those of China, the Philippines, the Netherlands East Indies, Australia, New Zealand, France and the Allies. To ignore the interests of those countries simply because Russia and the Allies cannot see eye to eye on the question of procedure, or because European peace problems have still to be resolved, is not going to make any easier the work of the Japanese peace conference when it is finally called. The longer the issue of Japan's future is shelved, the more intricate and controversial are the eventual deliberations likely to be.

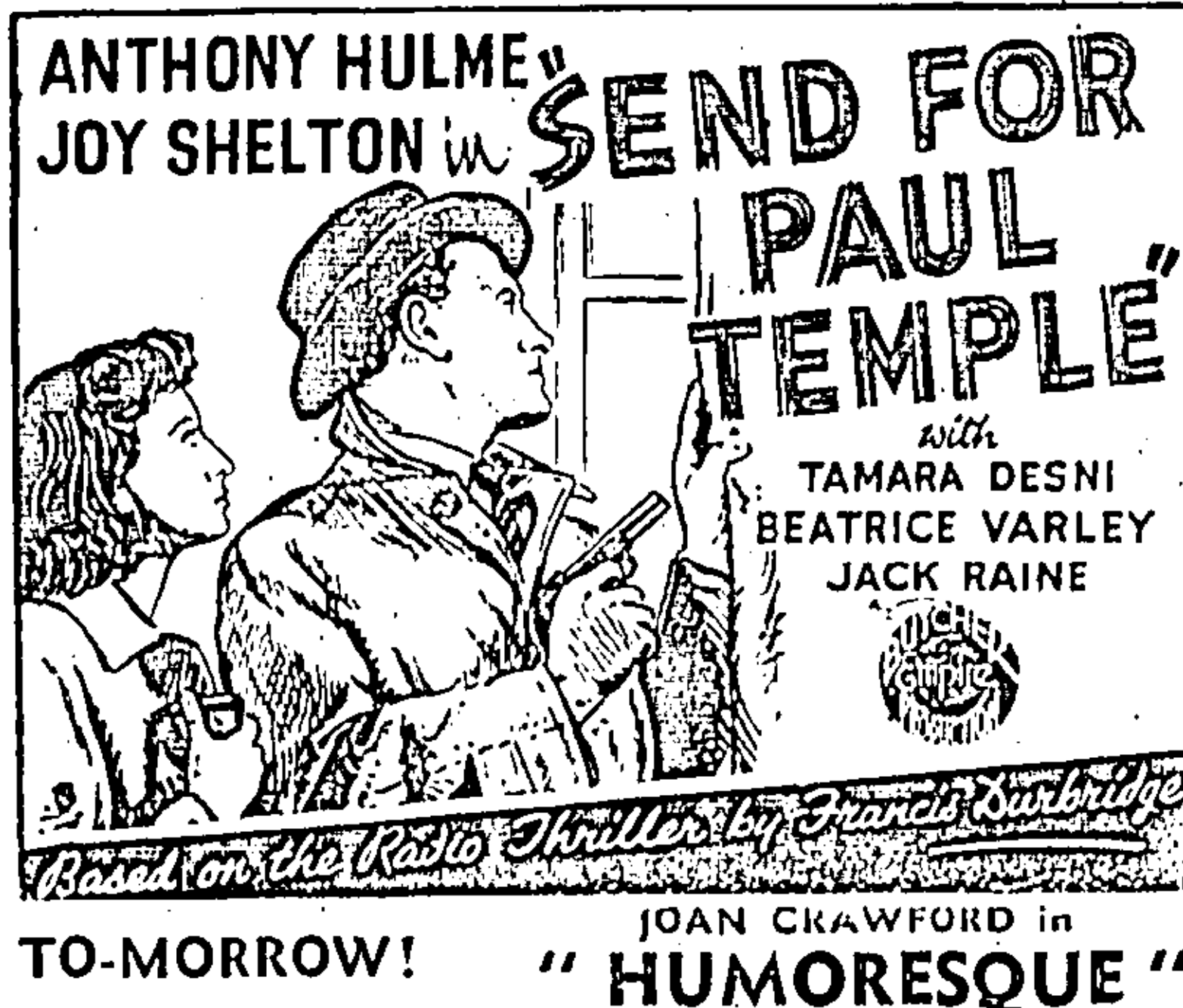
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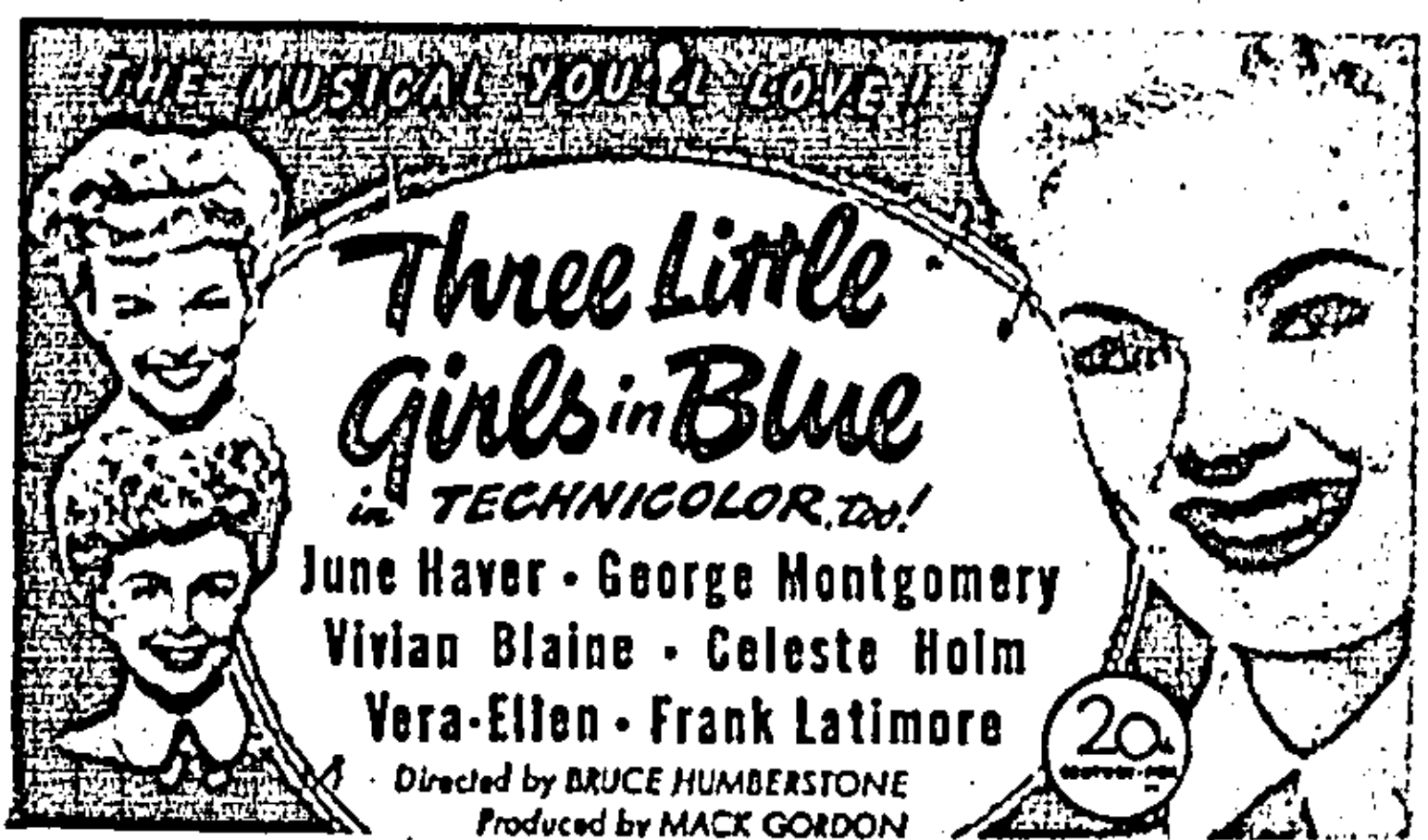


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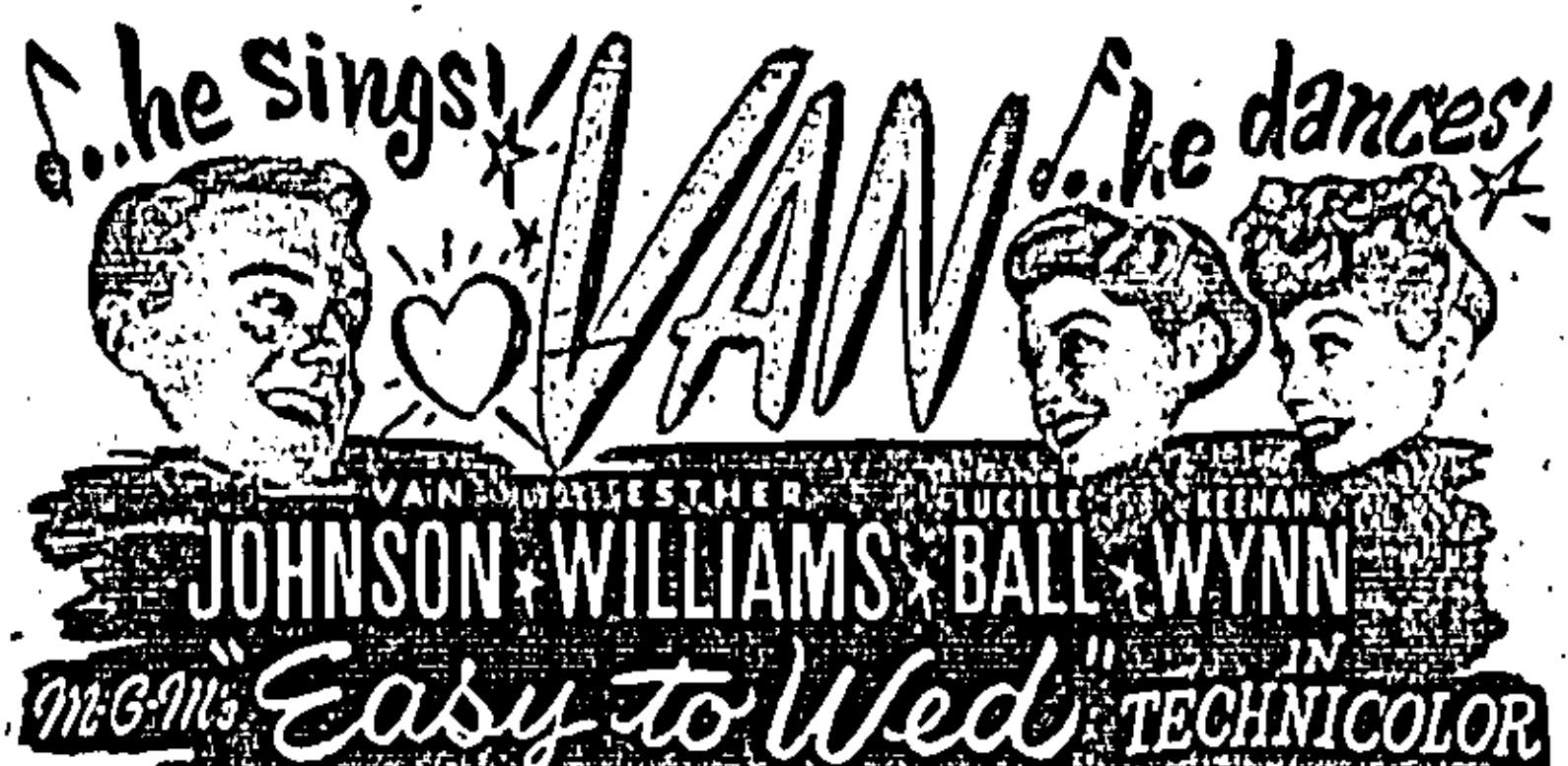
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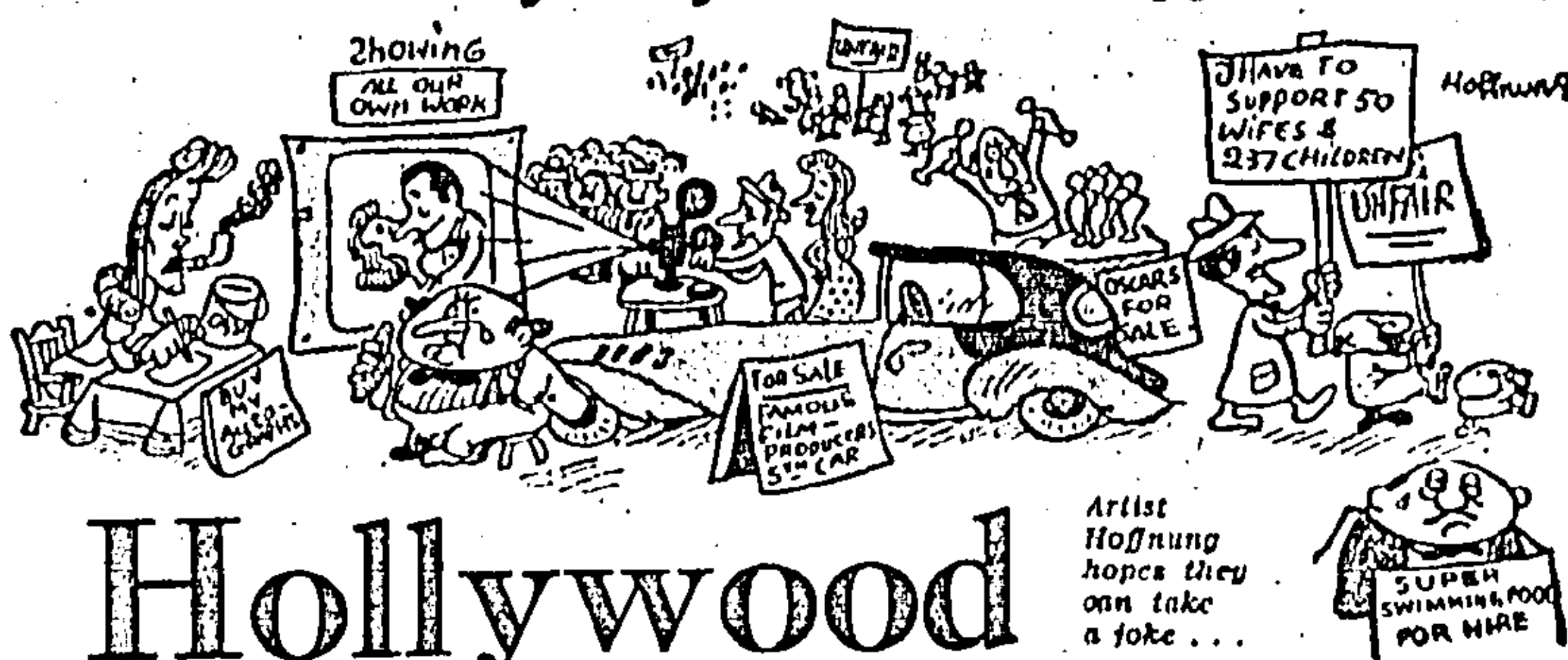
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"HERE COME THE WAVES"

C. V. R. THOMPSON flies out to the city they call 'The Slipping Beauty'

1-in-3 out of work in Hollywood



HOLLYWOOD.
TODAY one out of every three people employed in Hollywood six months ago is either on the dole or living off savings.

For many years they have earned good and regular money from the Hollywood goldmines. Yet today there are only 487 actors and actresses with studio contracts, and of them 125 hold the official rating of "star."

The rest—and there are 3,500—are earning half, perhaps a quarter, of what they earned up to six months ago. Some of them are earning nothing. Except for the 16 a week they draw from the dole, many would be homeless, even hungry. And with them in the jobless queue are 12,000 carpenters, painters, electricians, and engineers.

Running Out

THE reason is that the Hollywood goldmines are running out fast. Amid America's greatest boom, America's third largest industry—Hollywood—has become a depressed industry.

Main but not the only cause is what is called in polite circles "the tax situation." That, of course, means the loss of the British market which in 1946 brought Hollywood £17,000,000.

or a large part of its profit for a year.

Now other countries cannot afford dollars for films, and this year's loss from abroad is estimated at £25,000,000. As if that weren't enough, the Hollywood moguls have just learned from their distributors that the home market, their only remaining source of profit, is falling off. Box-office takings are 20 per cent down so far this year.

Even in the film city one chain of cinemas is finding it necessary to tempt or terrify in by offering them free dancing lessons or a raffle ticket for a brand new car.

Panic Moves

ALL this, plus a Hollywood divorce which could be shattering a divorce the Government is seeking between the producers and the cinema which controls—has set the multi-millionaire business panicking. Their frantic economies are fast turning Hollywood into a ghost town.

The vast studios echo from their emptiness. At this moment only 27 pictures are being made, and that is the lowest total in 14 years.

One studio, R.K.O., isn't making a single picture. The most popular topical wisecrack is that Howard Hughes, the millionaire flier, who is trying to buy the studio "will never be able to get it off the ground."

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the kingdom of the studios, is making only two pictures—a comedy with Greer Garson and Walter

Pidgeon, and the umpteenth remake of "The Three Musketeers"—instead of the usual eight to ten.

Even M.G.M.'s boss, Louis B. Mayer, has made economies and has liquidated his racing stable. His studio, which in normal times make 55 super-colossal epics every year, has cut this year's total to 18.

By not making pictures, and by such economies as wholesale cuts which aren't used in the finished picture, M.G.M. hope to save \$1,500,000.

No Offence

THEY hope to save another million and a half by (1) giving up earthquake scenes, luxurious banquets, and all such costly floss, (2) by using costumes and sets more than once, and (3) by making stars and directors do the same work in three-quarters of the time.

Quite suddenly there is great consideration in the few new films for the sensibilities of the now all-important American audience. In the new version of "The Three Musketeers," for instance, there will be no Cardinal Richelieu. He will become "a Government official," because Catholics might not like seeing a cardinal as a villain.

Hollywood, nevertheless, refuses to believe once and for all that "the tax situation" will not improve. It found enormous consolation in a report from London that an obscure Haywards health cinema has closed down for lack of American films.

Says Hollywood solemnly—"It won't be long now."

But says someone cynically—and there may be more truth in this—Hollywood is the Slipping Beauty.

'Paper doyleys under the buns at tea' 14 girls make the ship just like home

FIFTEEN merchant sailor girls skipped nimbly down the gangway of the 6,300-ton wheat-carrying motor ship La Cordillera on to the King George Dock at Hull a fortnight ago and dispersed to their homes all over Britain on a few days leave.

They had just completed a five-months' voyage which had taken them—via Montreal—to Sydney, Australia, and back by way of the Cape. They brought no monkeys or parrots from foreign parts. But every girl had nylon in her ditty box. Now they are being given time to kiss their families good-bye before sailing again, this time to Brazil, where their ship will pick up a cargo of rice for the Far East.

Aged 17 to 43, all ex-Wrens, except the four youngest, these 14 are the spearhead of an experiment which may bring women into the Merchant Navy in a big way—not only as stewaresses, but as general stewards, cooks, galley girls and cabin girls in passenger-carrying cargo vessels. (I have not forgotten that a woman, Miss Victoria Drummond, is an engineer-officer of the Merchant Navy).

This was La Cordillera's second voyage with women in the crew, and London shipowner H. G. Mann, who started the idea in two of his vessels is now satisfied that it works.

In his trim cabin as the ship docked, Captain M. Frame, of South Shields, the ship's master, told me: "I'm pleased with

from EVELYN IRONS

them. They are clean, they work hard, they keep my cabin spotless—and I like the woman's touch about the ship, with flowers on the table at every port."

Proudest girl I met on board was a tall, fair girl from Bexleyheath wearing sparkling white uniform overalls. Alma Nickalls, who boasted: "I'm the skipper's tiger."

An ex-City clerk herself, she explained that her job was to wait at the captain's table.

Chief Steward Mrs. Margaretta Godfrey from Hendon, former Wren catering officer at a Fleet Air Arm station, pre-war hotel owner at Folkestone, and now buyer of the ship's stores and officer in charge of La Cordillera's female crew, showed me her cabin on the boat deck with its pink satin quilt and its private shower.

The rest of the women share cabins for two, also on the boat deck, also excellently furnished.

But the chief steward warned, these are not just luxury cruises for which the girls get paid for being the world. At sea they work 10 hours a day, seven days a week, and I began to believe it, when I inspected the butcher's shop with its mighty joints cut by a girl butcher and the ship-shape store with its scrubbed wood racks and specklessly polished decks.

No claim was made that the women cooks used less lavish ingredients than men sea cooks do. But they did say modestly that they are less wasteful. Nothing that can be used is thrown overboard now.

Asked for the men's favourite recipe, Dorothy Reed, of Finchley, who got the meals for four and five times that number in the Wrens, where she says, "don't eat much more than girls at sea, but they eat plenty."

Typical menu she quoted was the crew's evening meal as the ship docked—dinner, steak and onions with potatoes and fresh fruit.

I took a quick poll on the women from the crew clustered round the galley port-hole. Only objection came from a tough seaman, who complained that it took four women to do two or three men's jobs in the galley, although he admitted the job was well done. A handful said the women made no difference. But most agreed that the meals were better cooked, and certainly far better served than they had ever experienced before in this new ship with her women "domestics." Wireless Officer Hargreaves, from New Brighton, added: "And they iron our shirts for us too."

But the girls got their biggest hand from the Trinity House pilot, Captain F. Bousfield, a small, hard-bitten Middlesbrough man who, until he came aboard at Dover, had never met anything like this in all his forty years at sea. "I think these girls are grand," he declared. "What beats me is getting paper doyleys under the buns at tea."

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

CHARLIE SUET met the difficulty in the approved bureaucratic fashion, with form S.N. 26.4.b. 290/a/N/h.36.926489.W.L. 636/94/1.214. The Persians filled it in thus:

1. Have you made any previous return of uncontrolled waste products under section 631 of form N.S.634B? ... One plank we desire for seasaw, ho yes

2. Was your previous application for a permit to return the gross waste products countersigned by a food officer? ... Same answer to a question one.

3. Have you a licence from the Board of Disposals? ... We say plank sir, you say board. Send us plank of disposals if such be language of Government.

4. What percentage of waste is covered by your surplus waste permit, per butt of personnel? ... One plank we desire for seasaw, ho yes, for personnel use.

5. State nature of waste products. ... One plank for seasaw please.

6. State purpose of application. ... Seasaw, O Minister.

Wrong form, actually

ON reading all this bludge, C. Suet Esq., laid his fore-finger along his upper lip and breathed noisily down his nose. At that moment Miss Clutter came skulking in, flicked her cigarette ash into Suet's glass of water, and said, in a shrill drawl, "Gorry and all that, but you've given Mr. Armitage's form about his stinking old factory to these people, actually." And out she walked with the form. For want of something to say, Suet said, "That was Miss Clutter." "How greatly we care, ho yes!" said Ashura sarcastically.

Take it quietly

ARE horse-bubbles visible? Who was the dog-fancier who filled the freightage clerk's hat with a bit of meat? Was Mrs. Nofuncu the Romanian aboard at the time? Is there special boot-chalk for auctioneers? These are some of the questions which will not be answered today. Things must not be rushed.

WHO HAS CLEANED UP THE SILVER?

By JOHN DEANE POTTER

LONDON.
THE big banks began at the end of January a drive to round up the £1,000,000 in silver which has vanished from circulation.

The Bank of England a year ago held £1,420,993 worth of silver in its vaults. On January 20 there was only £281,510. Most of the missing money is in half-crowns and florins.

Said one bank manager: "We have been asked to send all our surplus silver back to head office."

Another reported: "We have had little reserve silver for weeks so unless people want it for a special purpose we refuse to give them more than five pounds worth."

The shortage has become more acute since Christmas.

Bank of England admit "it's very awkward." Their spokesman hopes "that the Treasury statement the other day announcing no sudden change in the note issue will stop people sitting away silver coins. "We are very low indeed," he says. "The mint can't produce coins at a faster rate."

"The big stores have made it worse. They are holding more silver in their tills than usual in case

Potatoes Put On Pounds

By John Rainey

If you want to put on weight, eat mashed potatoes—"eat lots of 'em."

Pretty Jacqueline Jean Benson, 12, of Chicago, says that's her secret and she has doubled and redoubled her weight more times than anyone else in the world.

Jacqueline weighed only 12 ounces when she was born three months prematurely on January 14, 1936. She was the smallest baby ever to survive, according to the records of the American Medical Society.

On her twelfth birthday, she registered 70 pounds on the bathroom scale. That's more than 105 times her original weight.

If she had increased her weight proportionately from her usual start of seven pounds, she now would weigh 735 pounds.

Used To Be Little

"I know I used to be real little," she said. "But now I'm almost as big as the very biggest girl my age in our school."

"And I'm bigger than a lot of them."

Jacqueline's mother, Mrs. Lester R. Benson, said the little brown-eyed girl "really likes those potatoes."

"She's come a long way from the syringer of milk she used to get in the hospital," Mrs. Benson said.

"They kept her in an incubator for four and a half months and she weighed seven pounds when they finally brought her home."

Jacqueline has a brother, Lester, Jr., aged eight, who weighed a normal six and a half pounds at birth.

Jacqueline, a sixth grade school-girl said she would like to be a nurse when she grows up. She also would like to live on the Benson's 240-acre farm near Streator, Illinois.

"We go out there almost every weekend and in the summer time," she said. "I collect the eggs, and I can milk a cow, too. Not very good though."

"Daddy's a printer and he goes to the farm on weekends. Maybe I could be a nurse and do that too."

Proud Of Her Health

Jacqueline is proud of her health. "I don't get sick much," she bragged. "Hardly at all. And I helped take care of my brother when he got the measles and the mumps."

She giggled and added, "after he caught them from me."

Katherine Gallagher, the St. Anne's Hospital nurse who cared for Jacqueline during her fight for survival 12 years ago, still remembers her birthday.

"She sent me a nice new purse this year," Jacqueline said. "I'm going to carry it with the new coat with the hood that mama and daddy gave me."

Jacqueline curled her hair for the big family party. It will be a special dinner with ice cream cake—and lots of mashed potatoes.—United Press.

they cannot give customers change." To this Selfridge's—as a specimen big store—reply: "There was a shortage before Christmas, but it seems to us to be all right now. We are not hoarding silver, but if the bank didn't give us our usual allotment we should be in the soup."

COINS which have disappeared are mostly dated between 1920 and 1946. The new cupro-nickel coins contain no silver.

A City merchant banker explained: "Silver can be bought for 45.6d. an ounce today. The post-1920 coins have only 50 percent silver in them. So melted down it would cost ten shillings for an ounce of silver." The silver shortage—already so acute that deposits of it are being reclaimed from old films—makes it easy to dispose of silver at rates above market price.

Other reports added these silver news flashes:—A man in the Midlands recently drew £1,000 in silver from his bank and took it away in suitcases. . . . Some Lancashire firms will pay out hundreds of pounds of wages today in postal orders. . . . Several big employers are following the lead of the Civil Service and paying wages to the nearest ten-shilling note. . . .

FOOTNOTE: The weight of the missing silver is 117 tons.

NANCY Making Rapid Strides Backwards



By Ernie Bushmiller

DUTCH GENERAL EXPLAINS N.E.I. SURRENDER IN 1942

The Hague, Feb. 27.—The order to surrender to the Japanese in the Netherlands East Indies, given on March 18, 1942, did not apply to the Allied forces but only to the Dutch forces, Ter Poorten, Commander-in-Chief of the Netherlands East Indies Army during the Japanese invasion in 1942, said today.

He dismissed as "definitely untrue" a statement that he ordered the surrender to the Japanese of all forces under his command, including the British, without consulting the British commanders.

The statement was contained in the official despatch of Air Vice-Marshal Sir Paul Maltby, describing the RAF's part in the Java campaign, when Sir Paul, as Commander of the Royal Air Force there, was serving under General Ter Poorten. Consultation with the British Air Officer Commanding had not been possible because for several days his whereabouts had not even been known, General Ter Poorten said.

General Ter Poorten said that on March 8, 1942, both he and the Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies, Jonkheer Tjarda van Starkenborgh Stachouwer, were informed that unless they met the Japanese Commander-in-Chief at Kalidjati, the town of Bandung, earlier declared an open town, would be bombed out of existence.

Japanese Demand

Because of the hopelessness of the military situation, the Governor-General and Sir Paul agreed to the Japanese demand, and during the talks with the Japanese, efforts were made to restrict the capitulation to the Bandung area.

The Japanese Commander-in-Chief refused and demanded unconditional surrender, threatening to bomb Bandung and other large towns mercilessly unless the Dutch capitulated.

He also threatened to use terror methods against both the civil population and the troops if the fighting continued. Consultation with Air Vice-Marshal Sir Paul Maltby was not possible because the Japanese Commander-in-Chief demanded an immediate decision.

Guerilla Warfare

Regarding the possibilities of guerilla warfare, General Ter Poorten said the Governor-General, who was formerly also Commander-in-Chief, had informed him earlier that instructions from the Netherlands Government in London were that guerilla warfare had to be waged and that no general capitulation was to take place unless justified by special circumstances.

He accordingly sent telegrams to his commanders, instructing them not to pay heed to Japanese reports of capitulation but to continue to resist individually. The possibility of waging guerilla warfare, General Ter Poorten continued, was subsequently rejected as impracticable because it was impossible to rely on the active co-operation of the local population.

The military situation was reviewed at General Headquarters on March 7, and it was decided to abandon organised resistance. That meant local commanders would be left to use their own judgment.

The last time Sir Paul Maltby was seen, he was informed that Dutch troops would avoid integral capitulation but that a partial capitulation of troops concentrated on the Bandung plateau could be expected. British and Australian troops were consequently withdrawn from the area and concentrated in the vicinity of Tjikadjar, 40 miles south of Bandung.

In view of the large number of women and children evacuated from other areas to Bandung, the town was declared open to avoid giving the Japanese any pretext for indulging in a large-scale blood-bath at the expense of non-combatants.

General Ter Poorten said no strategic advantages could have resulted from rejecting the Japanese demands, and an acceptance of

LESSON NOT LEARNED

W. A. E. Percival, Feb. 26, L.G. A. E. Percival, G.O.C. of the British forces which surrendered to the Japanese at Singapore in 1942, today expressed to Reuters his view that the lesson of the Malayan campaign described in his despatch published tonight had not been learned.

Recalling Britain's total unpreparedness for war in the Far East in 1941, General Percival declared: "The same thing is happening again and the result is that other powers tend to become more aggressive." The general was one of the points of his despatch. Not only had many of the Indian troops fighting in Malaya not seen a tank when war began, he said, but there was at least one divisional commander who had not done so. The same applied to most of the Australian troops.

General Percival has written a book covering a wider field than the despatch—from his first arrival in Malaya in 1936 to the date of the signing of the Japanese surrender. It includes some individual views which would not have been appropriate in an official despatch.—Reuters.

capitulation was in the best interests of the country and of the people especially, as it was certain that a rejection of the surrender demand would have to be revoked later in consequence of Japanese terror bombing.

In conclusion, General Ter Poorten declared that Sir Paul Maltby's statement to the effect that "the Dutch were not helpful was 'without any foundation whatsoever'." Air Vice-Marshal Sir Paul Maltby, who is now Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Lords, informed by Reuters today of General Ter Poorten's comments, said: "The events which led up to the capitulation of Java are recorded in my despatch exactly as they had occurred."

Sir Paul said he did not desire to add further comment.—Reuters.

SPORT:

FIRES AT WHITE CITY TRACK

London, Feb. 26.—The main stand of the White City dog track at Old Trafford, Manchester, was badly damaged by fire today.

Half of it was saved, but 12 tote booths and machines were damaged. While firemen were fighting the main blaze, another fire broke out in the tote control, 50 yards away. The police are investigating.—Reuters.

FIELD WATERLOGGED

Georgetown, British Guiana, Feb. 26.—Today was again a blank day in the return match between British Guiana and the MCC here.

The weather turned fine today, after a downpour had made play impossible yesterday, but prospects of play after lunch were dispelled by the outfield remaining waterlogged in places.

As two days have now been lost, the captains, Mr G. O. Allen and Mr H. P. Bayley, agreed to extend the match to Monday.—Reuters.

KRAMER EXTENDS LEAD

Arcadia, California, Feb. 26.—Kramer today extended his lead over Bobby Riggs to 22 to 16 in their nation-wide professional tennis tour, winning 6-2, 4-0, 6-3.

Patricia Segura defeated Dinny Pails (Australia) 6-2, 6-1. Kramer and Segura paired to win the doubles by 6-3, 3-0, 6-4 over Riggs and Pails.—United Press.

ACTION DISMISSED

London, Feb. 26.—Lord Chief Justice Goddard in the High Court today dismissed with costs an action brought against the Jockey Club, which controls flat racing, by the racehorse trainer, Mr James Russell.

Mr Russell had claimed damages for an alleged breach of contract and for alleged libel in the Racing Calendar.—Reuters.

Singapore Despatches Censored?

Sydney, Feb. 27.—The newspaper Sydney Morning Herald today asked whether the despatches of Lt-Gen. A. E. Percival, former General Officer Commanding, Malaya, and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Paul Maltby, former Assistant Air Officer Commanding, Far East, were censored before publication.

Until the question is satisfactorily answered, it declared, doubt must remain whether the full story of Singapore has yet been told. The newspaper said Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, former Commander-in-Chief, Far Eastern Fleet, was renowned for his outspokenness and that the absence of any explanation why his report was not included in published naval despatches aroused suspicion about the completeness of the other despatches.

General Percival's despatch, it said, was expected to prove a bombshell but contains nothing new and nothing sensational and raises the question why it and the others were so long delayed.

The Admiralty announced on February 19 that Admiral Layton's contemporary report to the Admiralty on the Malayan campaign, written in 1942, before the Commanders-in-Chief of the other two Services—both in captivity—were able to give their considered account and analysis of this predominantly land and air battle, was not written with a view to publication and will not be published.—Reuters.

HAVANA TALKS PART OF MASTER PLAN

Canberra, Feb. 26.—Anglo-American aid, the Marshall plan, lend-lease and the Havana trade negotiations were all linked with the "great struggle of the democracies against Communism," Mr Joseph Chifley, the Commonwealth Prime Minister, told the Australian Parliament here today.

"Communism has grown in soil fertilised by the conservative interests of the world," he said in replying to Opposition criticism of Australian participation in the Havana trade talks among the 58 members of the International Trade Organisation.

Mr Chifley appealed to all British peoples to consider the international trade negotiations as a world problem and not from the point of view of narrow nationalist advantages.

"The negotiations are part of the master plan initiated when Britain's war leader, Mr Churchill, was obliged to compromise over Imperial Preferences," he said.

"This compromise was necessary so that Mr Roosevelt, one of the great men of the age, could sell his country the idea of aid to Europe," he said.

"The American people had to be satisfied that one of their pet bugbears—tariff barriers—would be scented down before they would support aid to Europe. Australia was a party to mutual aid and therefore had a moral obligation to support the compromise."—Reuters.

Letters To The Editor

The Error Was In The Framing

Sir,—Re your "Test Your Knowledge" quiz in the Telegraph on Wednesday.

If George the Sixth has lost his throne, throughout the latter war, I think the Swede, should take the lead.

On UNO's mighty floor, But if you stop to reconsider The shores of England never ever

Have wandered far from Europe's door. You'll know your question's bad I'm sure!

A PATRIOTIC MATELOT. [The question "Who was the only king in Europe to retain his throne through World War II?" was badly framed. It was intended to refer only to the Continent.—Ed. HKT.]

Recreio To Play KCC Seconds

Arrangements have now been finalised for a Cup de Recreio eleven to play the KCC second team at the KCC tomorrow afternoon. The KCC team will be S. A. Gray, V. C. Bond, V. H. White, S. Trueman, E. Randall, E. A. J. Hancock, R. H. A. Lapsley, R. G. Labrum, R. Leigh, P. Smith and G. Rosset.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers
1. General George S. Patton, Jr. 2. Length, weight and time. 3. Douglassville, in the Solomon Islands. 4. Cleopatra. 5. Three minutes. 6. Portugal.



"Really, all I want is something to take away the smell of mothballs."

Indonesians Charge Plebiscite Influenced

Lake Success, Feb. 26.—Charges that the Netherlands Government was deliberately prejudicing the political self-determination of the Indonesian people of West Java and Madura were made here today as the Security Council resumed discussion of the Indonesian question.

Dr Sastraamidjojo, the Indonesian Republican spokesman, said the Netherlands Government wants to "present us with a fait accompli and thereby nullify or prejudice free plebiscites."

Dr Sastraamidjojo submitted four points:

1. The Republic of Indonesia objected strongly to free expressions of popular movements when they were being unilaterally promoted by the Netherlands Government and not by plebiscite.

2. The security and freedom mentioned in the Renville agreement could be guaranteed only when the territory in question was free from martial law and an army of occupation.

3. Such actions were not in accord with the Renville agreement principle, which obtained the consent of both parties to the dispute and laid down the procedure for gaining the full and free consent of the population through a plebiscite, which would be held to determine whether the populations of the various territories of Java, Madura and Sumatra wish their territory to form part of the Republic of Indonesia, or of the Republic within a United States of Indonesia.

4. Any departure from the plebiscite method of determining the

New Siamese Government Sure Of Vote

Bangkok, Feb. 26.—The new Siamese Cabinet, headed by Khuang Khaiwong, is considered certain to get a vote of confidence when it faces a joint session of Parliament on Monday, as it commands about 80 percent support in the combined Houses.

The Premier has dropped three Ministers and added three others to his caretaker Cabinet, which has held office since the coup d'etat by Marshal Pibul Songgram last November, and assumes the portfolio of the Interior himself.

Although not a coalition, the Cabinet, which has 12 Democrats and 12 non-party members, contains many reputable non-party men who command great personal prestige. Government circles today expressed hesitancy about Siamese representation at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation Conference, to be held at Baguio, in the Philippines, shortly.

This cannot be decided until the new government is recognised internationally, which, however, is considered only a matter of days.—Reuters.

SLOVAKIA COUP PROTESTS

(Continued from Page 1)
ago, bears witness to the immense dangers inherent in the world situation.

"The will to war does not exist today as it did yesterday, but as M. Georges Bidault (the French Foreign Minister) said, the pawns cannot continue moving forward on the chess board without a situation resulting which might very likely soon become dangerous."

Le Monde added that "fery propaganda will not prevent us feeling the silence of terrified leaders of muzzled newspapers and of Presidents unable to speak freely."—Reuters.

Czech Communists Will Begin Purge

Prague, Feb. 26.—The launching of a campaign to bring Czechoslovakia's central and local governments under Communist majority control, coupled with a purge of "treacherous elements" in public and private life, is regarded by observers as the start of a "second phase" in the political transformation of the country.

While President Eduard Benes has remained silent on the "National Revolution" which has given the Communists control of the Cabinet, Dr Cepicka, the new Communist Minister of Justice, has disclosed a plan under which all government organs will be taken over by Communist-dominated "Action Committees."

All provincial "Action Committees" will have been formed by tomorrow, and all district committees, with control of affairs in towns and villages, by March 2.

It is believed the establishment of these committees will be followed by a considerable period of purging of the whole national life of elements hostile to the new National Front and its strongly Communist programme.

Prague Radio reported tonight that the "Action Committee" of the Prague Broadcasting House had decided to refuse to the Czech Nationalist Socialists—one of the parties now excluded from the Cabinet—facilities to broadcast.

Benes Speech Doubt

Meanwhile, it is doubtful whether the already twice postponed speech which President Benes was to make this evening will be made.

President Benes has been silent since the formation of the new Cabinet—in which the Communists have 12 of the 24 seats—two days ago.

Prace, the trade union newspaper, reports that the Executive Committee of the Foreign Ministry has formed a sub-committee to purge the Foreign Office and its staff abroad. In Bratislava, the Slovak capital, Lt-Col. Polak, a member of the Executive Committee of the Slovak Democratic Party, declared in a broadcast that he had formed an Action Committee to reorganise the party.

A similar purge is reported under way in the other right wing parties, the resignation of whose leaders brought the recent crisis to a head, and in the Social Democratic Party, whose support for the Communists gave them the parliamentary majority they needed for the new government announced last night by the Prime Minister, M. Klement Gottwald.

Appeal To Deputies

A Parliamentary Action Committee met in Prague last night for the first time, attended by representatives of the Czech and Slovak Communist parties and the Social Democratic Party, and by deputies from the People's and the Slovak Democratic parties.

The Action Committee appealed to all deputies, except "those who caused the crisis," to proclaim their "adherence to the principles of a responsible people's democracy" and to prove they were interested in the solution of this crisis.

It called on them to secure "by the co-operation of all progressive deputies a solid basis for normal parliamentary life and full support for the government—and its programme."

About 24 executives, including the assistant general manager and four directors of the Bata shoe factory in Zlin, Moravia—one of the country's major industrial concerns—were reported to have been dismissed. With the appointment of Dr Alexey Cepicka (Communist) to the Ministry of Justice, in place of the National Socialist, Dr Prokop Drtina, political observers expect the introduction of the doctrine that the people's will is law.

Student March

A report issued tonight by the Ministry of the Interior on the evening's incident, when students tried to march to see President Benes at his castle, stated that a policeman's rifle went off accidentally as a group of student trouble-makers was being dispersed.

The bullet wounded a person in the leg, it was stated. Several groups of student trouble-makers who tried to create incidents were dispersed and several scores of arrests were made. It was added.—Reuters.

London Opinion

London, Feb. 26.—A Foreign Office spokesman in London said today that Britain would have to "reconsider the recognition of the Czechoslovak Government" as it had been "set up by un-democratic means."

According to information from the British Ambassador in Prague, the spokesman said, there was nowhere any sign of normal parliamentary procedure having been used.—Reuters.

Assault On Liberty

London, Feb. 26.—Mr Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council, declared here tonight that the recent events in Czechoslovakia were "an effort to destroy a nation's liberty from within by men who owe a loyalty, not to their own country, but to a foreign power."

"Czechoslovakia was the most successful of the democracies in Central Europe between the wars until the Hitler putch took place," he said.

"Now, again, it is the subject of a somewhat similar assault. The situation there is bound to give anxiety to all those who love human liberty."

"Let democrats there be courageous. Let men and women everywhere resist tyrants, however they may describe themselves."—Reuters.

NOTICE

THE "STAR" FERRY CO. LTD.

Notice To Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the forty-sixth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Members of this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wednesday the 17th day of March, 1948, at Noon, to receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1947, to elect Directors and to appoint Auditors.

Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 4th March, 1948, to the 17th March, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.
C. E. TERRY,
Manager & Secretary.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1948.

They Gave their Lives. We, too, may give through the HONGKONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Send your donation to the Hon. Treasurers
Lowe, Bingham & Matthews
Mercantile Bank Bldg.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

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